Cellular service by Reliance Telecom

1566. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reliance Telecom has become one of the largest cellular service operator in the country;

(b) if so, the name of the States where the company is providing its services;

(c) whether the Reliance Telecom has fulfilled the terms and conditions of the licence issued;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(f) to what extent the company has established its services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) The company holds licences for Cellular Mobile Telephones Service for seven Telecom Circles which is the maximum number of licenses held by a single company. A total of 33 licences for Telecom. Circles and 8 licenses for 4 metro cities have been awarded for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service. The Telecom Circles awarded to the company are (i) Assam (ii) Bihar (iii) Himachal Pradesh (iv) Madhya Pradesh (v) North East (vi) Orissa, and (vii) West Bengal.

However, the company has not started the services in any of these Circles.

(c) to (f) As far as the payment of licence fee is concerned, M/s Reliance Telecom has observed the terms and conditions of the licences issued for seven circles. However, as per the terms and conditions of the licence, the company was required to start the service in atleast 10% of the District Headuqarters within one year of the effective date of licences (which is 12-12-1995). The company has yet to start the service in any of their service areas. The reason given by the company are general difficulties being faced by them in view of maximum number circles, characterized by underdeveloped infrastructure, insurgency in atleast two circles, difficult terrains and reluctance of qualified personnel to take up assignments in these service areas, etc.

Post Offices Housed in Rented Buildings

1567. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Post Offices/Sub-Post Offices which are still housed in rented buildings even after completion of buildings by the Department in Gujarat;

(b) the amount of loss by way of rent suffered by the Government as such; and

(c) by when Government intend to shift these Post Offices to thier own buildings in each case?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No Post Office in Gujarat is housed in a rented building even after completion of departmental building.

(b) Nil.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

Construction of Post Office Buildings in Gujarat

1568. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Post Offices functioning in rented buildings in Gujarat;

(b) the details of Post Offices vacating the private building taken on rent during the last three years;

(c) the details of the schemes sanctioned so far for construction of Post Offices buildings in the State;

(d) the details of the schemes taken up for construction and completed during the last three years; and

(e) the details of the scheme not taken up though sanctioned for construction so far with reasons therefor?